REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's Action of July 18, 2005, has been received and reviewed by counsel for Assignee. In that Action claims 1-20 were presented for examination. All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over *Takizawa*, U.S. Patent 6,657,680, in view of *Barrick*, U.S. Patent 5,095,606. By this response counsel has canceled all pending claims and submits herewith new claims 21-41. As will be seen, these claims correspond generally to the previous claims, but have been rewritten in a manner to place them in better form and to highlight the differences between Applicants' claimed invention and the prior art. The Examiner's rejection is discussed next.

The Applicants' invention herein relates to providing support holders for light valves and fixing them in position using heat-melting polymer material. This enables the connection of the support holders and the synthesizing unit with elements of the support holders. In particular, as now amended, claim 21 calls for the support holders to be fixed to the light valves by heat fusion of the heat-melting polymer material of the support holders, by which any requirement for screws or other fasteners is eliminated. Independent claim 22 describes a technique by which the support holders are affixed to the light valves by heat-melting polymer material, again without using mechanical fasteners. Further, each of the support holders is fixed to the upper surface and the lower surface of the synthesizing unit. This structure makes it possible to prevent damage in reworking to the incident surfaces.

Similarly, in claim 27, an important aspect is that the melting point of the material of the profile portion of the light valves and that of the material of the mounting portion of each of the support holders are different by at least 40° from each other. This prevents the light valves from being influenced by heating or overheating of the polymer material of the support holders.

Takizawa in the '689 patent describes a method by which the light modulation device 81 is fixed to the dichroic prism 45 through a frame 82. In particular, the frame 82 is fixed to the light incident surface of the prism 45 as described in column 9:5-9 of the patent. The retaining frame 81 is kept on the liquid crystal panel, and the frame 82 is fixed to the liquid crystal panel by a pin 83 (see column 10:20-35). In addition, the frame member is a metal frame, as described at column 9:9-10. Thus, *Takizawa* teaches that the light modulation device 81 is fixed to the prism 45 with connecting elements, including a pin 83, a

frame 82, another frame 81, and the various adhesives employed. This large number of connecting elements makes it more difficult to make the convergence adjustments. Furthermore, in *Takizawa* a pin 83 used for fixing the frame member 82 to the liquid crystal panel, and therefore the part fixed by the frame member is not as steady, and the slant of the lenses affixed in this same manner is not as reliable.

Barrick in the '606 patent describes a method for making uniform plastic weld caps out of thermal plastic studs. Even if *Barrick* were combined with *Takizawa*, the fixing pin 83 would be merely replaced by the thermal plastic stud in *Barrick*. The combined structure would still be different from the invention as described and claimed. The resulting structure does not provide a structure in which the support holders for the light valves are formed of a heat-melting polymer material.

Iinuma, U.S. Re. 38,194, teaches a structure in which a liquid crystal panel is fixed to an incident surface of a prism through a plate 54, see, e.g., column 7:4-9. The fixing frame plate 54 and the liquid crystal panel 50 are set in position with screws 56, as described in column 7:61-67. In addition, it is taught that the fixing frame plate can be made by resins or various composite materials, as explained in column 8:35-36. *Iinuma*, however, does not disclose the structure of the invention claimed herein in which the support holders for the plural light valves are fixed to the prism of the synthesizing unit and are formed of heat-melting polymer material.

For all of these reasons counsel believes that the claims as now presented patentably distinguish the combination of the cited references. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-324-6303 (direct).

Respectfully submitted,

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